

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6 1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200 DALLAS, TX 75202-2733

SEP 3 0 1999

Mr. James H. Davis, Ph.D., Chief Surface Water Quality Bureau New Mexico Environment Department P.O. Box 26110 Santa Fe, NM 87502

Dear Mr. Davis:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is pleased to approve the following TMDLs and updates to work element 6 of the New Mexico Water Quality Management Plan:

- 1. Total ammonia TMDL for the Rio Chamita.
- 2. Total phosphorus for the Rio Chamita.
- 3. Fecal coliform TMDL for the Rio Chamita.

EPA received the final TMDLs on August 30, 1999, accompanied by your letter dated August 24, 1999. We commend your staff for the considerable effort that went into developing and establishing these TMDLs.

Based on our review, detailed in the enclosed document, we conclude that the TMDLs meet the regulatory requirements found in Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and the implementing regulations at 40 CFR 130.7. If you would like to discuss these approvals, please contact me or Troy Hill of my staff at (214) 665-6647.

Sincerely yours,

Original signed by Oscar Ramirez Jr.

William B. Hathaway Director Water Quality Protection Division

Enclosure